(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of ground staff for aircrafts in Indian Airlines is much higher than that of private Airlines;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal to reduce the strength of staff in the Government-managed airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) and (b)Yes, Sir. Project Reports for acquisition of aircraft by Air India and Indian Airlines are under consideration of Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In some categories, there is surplus staff.

(e) Government is discussing with the Government managed airlines how to rationalise the staff strength.

New International Airport in Navi Mumbai

703. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal for development of an International Airport at Navi Mumbai through public-private participation was submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, when and what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps since taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A techno Economic Feasibility Report prepared by City & Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO) for an airport at Navi Mumbai was received from the Government of Maharashtra. CIDCO has been advised to carry out a simulation study of conflict-free operations between existing airport and the proposed airport and also to provide double and parallel runways at the proposed airport before the preparation of the Detailed Project Report.